

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel withdrawn claims 10-13 without prejudice to a possible divisional application. Kindly also amend claims 5-9, 14, and 15, and add new claims 19-25, as follows:

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65. (Amended) [Multichamber] A mold according to [Claim 1] claim 14, [characterized in that there is provided on] wherein each die further comprises a foot plate (4"), which is connected firmly to the die shank (2") of the respective die, and [there is arranged] an insert (23; 23') between said foot plate and the pressure-exerting plate (5") [an] of the respective die, the insert [(23;23') which has] having a top part with a top plate (24;24') and a bottom part which is guided so as to be vertically movable with respect to said top part and has a bottom plate (25;25'), the top plate being screwed to the foot plate and the bottom plate being screwed to the pressure-exerting plate, and [in that the insert (23; 23.') contains] wherein the means comprises at least one bellows (40)[,] which [can be activated by compressed air, and] is contained in the insert, the stops (33, 28 to 31; 46, 51, 53) [for delimiting the displacement range of the two parts] additionally being contained in the insert.

76. (Amended) [Mold] A mold according to [Claim] claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the insert further comprises interengaging guide bolts (27) and guide sleeves (26) [are arranged] on the two [parts] plates of the insert (23).

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~~7.~~ (Amended) [Mold] A mold according to [Claim] claim 5,⁶ [characterized in that, as stops for delimiting the displacement of the pressure-exerting plates (5"; 47) upwards,] wherein the stops comprise spacer pieces (28 to 31; 46) [are provided] on one of the two plates (24, 25; 24', 25) of the insert (23; 23').

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~~8.~~ (Amended) [Mold] A mold according to [Claim] claim 5,⁶ [characterized in that, as stops for delimiting the displacement of the pressure-exerting plates (5") downwards,] wherein the stops comprise double-T-shaped stop pieces (33) [are provided] on one of the plates (24, 25) of the insert (23) and [engage in] spacer pieces with double-T-shaped recesses (32) [of spacer pieces] fastened on the other plate of the insert to engage the double-T-shaped stop pieces.

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~~9.~~ (Amended) [Mold] A mold according to [Claim] claim 5,⁶ [characterized in that] wherein the insert further comprises a bolt (49, 50) which is fastened on the bottom plate (25') of the insert (23') and passes through the other plate (24') of the insert, with a guiding action, [and has] the bolt having a widened head (53) above said other plate of the insert and a bearing shoulder (51) beneath [the] said other plate of the insert.

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~~14.~~ (Amended) A mold for manufacturing concrete moldings comprising:
a bottom mold part with [at least one] mold [chamber] chambers;
a top mold part with a load plate; and

[at least one die] a plurality of dies, where there [is] are as many dies as mold chambers[,
said die including] and where each of said dies includes:

a die shank, one side of which is connected to said load plate;

a pressure-exerting plate connected to the other side of said die shank; and

C2 means for receiving a pressure medium and for moving said pressure-exerting plate away from said [top mold part] load plate and forcing it downward into contact with concrete in a respective one of said mold chambers in response to said pressure medium, said means including stops which define [the] a displacement range of said pressure-exerting plate[, and wherein said pressure-exerting plate can be forced downward under the action of a pressure medium],

wherein the pressure-exerting plate of each die is moved away from said load plate by the means of the respective die.

245. (Amended) A mold according to claim 14, wherein the pressure medium is compressed air, and wherein said means comprises a pressure-medium chamber that is activated by [a compressed-air source is provided on each at least one die] the compressed air, said pressure-medium chamber acting on said pressure-exerting plate and having a movable wall.

--19. A mold for manufacturing concrete moldings, comprising:

a bottom mold part with a mold chamber;

C3 a top mold part with a load plate; and

a die which includes

a pressure-exerting plate below the load plate,

suspension means for movably suspending the pressure-exerting plate from the load plate, and

forcing means for forcing the pressure-exerting plate downward against concrete in the mold chamber, the forcing means being disposed between the load plate and the pressure-exerting plate, the forcing means including a pressure-medium chamber which receives a pressure medium and which comprises a flexible wall that is deformed by the pressure medium.

20. A mold according to claim 19, further comprising spring means for biasing the pressure-exerting plate in a raised position when the pressure-medium chamber does not receive the pressure medium.

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21. A mold according to claim 19, wherein the pressure chamber comprises a plate with an opening for receiving the pressure medium, and wherein the flexible wall comprises a diaphragm having a periphery, the periphery of the diaphragm being affixed to the plate with the opening.

22. A mold according to claim 21, wherein the plate with the opening is affixed to the load plate.

23. A mold according to claim 21, wherein the diaphragm presses against the pressure-exerting plate when the pressure-medium chamber receives the pressure medium.

24. A mold according to claim 19, wherein the pressure chamber comprises a generally disk-shaped bellows, the flexible wall being part of the bellows.

C3 25. A mold according to claim 24, wherein the suspension means comprises a pair of parallel plates, means for movable coupling the parallel plates so that they are movable toward and away from one another, and means for coupling one of the parallel plates to the load plate, the pressure-exerting plate being connected to the other of the parallel plates and the bellows being mounted between the parallel plates.--

REMARKS

The Office Action of May 12, 1999 has been received and its contents carefully noted.

The present Amendment cancels claims 10-13, which are drawn to the non-elected invention, without prejudice to a possible divisional application.

Claims 5-19 were withdrawn from consideration due to a requirement for election of species. Nevertheless, these claims are being retained and amended to depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 14. Claims 5-9 have also been amended to adapt them to U.S. practice.

Skipping claims 14-18 for the moment, the present Amendment also adds new claims 19-25 to further protect the invention. Claim 19 is generic to both species. Claims 19-23 are directed to the elected species, and claims 24 and 25 are directed to the non-elected species.

Returning now to claims 14-18, Section 4 of the Office Action rejects these claims for indefiniteness because of language appearing in claim 14. Claim 14 has been amended to avoid